

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225373

EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ZIMBABWE: SITHOLE BREAKS WITH THE ANC

EMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM REPORTS THAT ON SEPTEMBER 9 ZANU  
PRESIDENT SITHOLE ANNOUNCED ZANU'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE  
AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL AND REPUDIATION OF THE 1974  
LUSAKA UNITY AGREEMENT. HE CHARGED THAT:

--THE ANC LACKED A COHERENT POLITICAL AND MILITARY  
STRATEGY AND HAD AN UNREVOLUTIONARY AND INEFFECTUAL  
APPROACH TO ARMED STRUGGLE.

--THE MEMBER FACTIONS FAILED TO COOPERATE, EVEN AFTER  
NKOMO SPLIT OFF FROM THE ANC.

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--WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF ZAPU, THE ANC HAD BECOME

"TOOTHLESS," AS MOST ZANU FIGHTING FORCES REFUSED TO WORK UNDER IT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: SITHOLE'S ACTION PROVIDES GRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS' INABILITY TO BRING TOGETHER THE VARIOUS ZIMBABWEAN FACTIONS. HOW EFFECTIVE

IT WILL BE DEPENDS ON THE REACTION OF OTHER LEADERS, INCLUDING THE MILITARY, AND ON WHETHER SITHOLE CAN, AS HE CLAIMS, TAKE THE BULK OF ZANU'S FOLLOWERS, INCLUDING THE GUERRILLAS, WITH HIM. (UNCLASSIFIED) DAR ES SALAAM 3303, 9/9 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) DAR ES SALAAM 3322, 9/10.)

## 2. BONGO CRITICIZES PEACE EFFORTS

GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO REPORTEDLY SAID IN A PARIS PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 8 THAT, "MR. KISSINGER WISHES TO GAIN TIME. HIS TRIP TO AFRICA IS USELESS. MR. VORSTER IS A RACIST THROUGH AND THROUGH, AND WILL REMAIN ONE. THE ONLY WAY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF SOUTH AFRICA IS FOR THE AFRICANS TO TAKE UP ARMS, AS IN ANGOLA."

EMBASSY COMMENT: BONGO'S REMARKS WERE TARGETED FOR THE FRENCH AUDIENCE, AND MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN A MORE ANTI-AMERICAN CAST THAN HE INTENDED BY FRENCH REPORTING. WE BELIEVE BONGO IS MORE SYMPATHETIC TOWARDS THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS THAN THE PRESS REPORTS INDICATED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LIBREVILLE 1803, 9/10.)

## 3. MOZAMBIQUE REBELLION ONLY A RUMOR

EMBASSY MAPUTO CATEGORIZES AS UNFOUNDED THE RUMORS OF A REBELLION IN WHICH PRESIDENT MACHEL WAS ALLEGEDLY SHOT. MACHEL WAS SEEN TWICE ON SEPTEMBER 10, IN APPARENT GOOD HEALTH. (CONFIDENTIAL) MAPUTO 1033, 9/10.)

## 4. CHINA AFTER MAO

IN A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF MAO'S DEATH, CONGEN HONG KONG PREDICTS AN EFFORT BY THE RULING BODY TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUE THE PRESENT LOOSELY STRUCTURED LEADERSHIP, WITH HUA KUO-FENG TAKING THE LEAD. THE CONSULATE ALSO BELIEVES:

--PEKING LEADERSHIP TRIED TO MAINTAIN AN IMAGE OF UNITY IN THE FACE OF MAO'S IMMINENT DEATH.

--ALTHOUGH DEEP LEADERSHIP DIVISIONS MAY REEMERGE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY POLITICAL FACTION WILL FEEL

STRONG ENOUGH TO MOVE PRECIPITOUSLY AGAINST ITS OPPOSITIONS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

--THE CALL IN MAO'S OBITUARY TO STRENGTHEN THE CENTRALIZED LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY IS A THEME LIKELY TO REMAIN THE KEYSTONE OF APPEALS BY THE PARTY CENTER IN THE COMING MONTHS.

THE BEST THAT CHINA CAN HOPE FOR NOW IS A LEADERSHIP CAPABLE OF HOLDING THE COUNTRY TOGETHER AND SUCCESSFULLY GUIDING IT THROUGH THE PERILS OF THE IMMEDIATE POST-MAO PERIOD. (CONFIDENTIAL) HONG KONG 10632 (EXDIS), 9/10.)

5. TITO SUFFERS HEART ATTACK?

YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC MADE A LIGHTNING VISIT TO PARIS SEPTEMBER 10 TO INFORM GISCARD THAT TITO WOULD NOT BE MAKING HIS PLANNED TRIP TO FRANCE. QUAI OFFICIAL BEAUCHATAUD TOLD EMBASSY PARIS HE BELIEVES TITO CANCELLED BECAUSE OF A MILD HEART ATTACK. EMBASSY BELGRADE, HOWEVER, REPORTS THAT AS OF THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 10, TITO APPEARED TO BE IN EXCELLENT HEALTH. THE EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT THE CANCELLATION MAY HAVE RESULTED FROM:

--DIFFICULTIES POSED FOR TITO BY THE DISFAVOR WITH WHICH THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT REGARDS THE FRENCH;

--FRENCH REFUSAL TO INCLUDE IN THE PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE A FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT; AND

--AN ATTACK IN THE PRESS ON YUGOSLAV TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS MADE BY EX-PRISONER VIDOVIC, WHOSE RELEASE THE FRENCH RECENTLY OBTAINED. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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DENTIAL) BELGRADE 5966; PARIS 26454 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PARIS 26486, 9/10.)

6. BARBADOS: FENCE-MENDING BEGINS

PRIME MINISTER ADAMS ASSURED AMBASSADOR BRITTON SEPTEMBER 8 THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WISHES TO RESTATE ITS WARM FRIENDSHIP AND SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WITH THE US. ADAMS ALSO REITERATED HIS REGRET THAT THE FORMER GOVERNMENT HAD MADE CHARGES OF DESTABILIZATION AGAINST THE US.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: THE NEW PRIME MINISTER IS A PERSON OF DEEP REFLECTION AND HUMILITY. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT WE CAN COUNT ON A FRIENDLY, INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT HERE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THE US WILL NEED TO BE

RESPONSIVE, BUT FOR THE MOMENT, I DO NOT FEEL THIS WILL REQUIRE ANYTHING OVER WHAT WE ARE PRESENTLY DOING. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) BRIDGETOWN 1715, 9/9.)

7. TURKISH-LIBYAN RELATIONS

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SUAT CAKIR TOLD EMBASSY ANKARA SEPTEMBER 10 THAT, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO LIBYA, QADHAFI HAD IMPRESSED HIM AS AN "UNSTABLE ADOLESCENT." ON LIBYAN OIL SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY, CAKIR SAID:

--TURKEY IS CULTIVATING RELATIONS WITH LIBYA PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT DEPENDS ON LIBYA FOR 30 TO 40 PERCENT OF ITS PETROLEUM NEEDS.

--SHIPMENTS ARE PRESENTLY BEING DELAYED BECAUSE OF A NEW LIBYAN REQUIREMENT FOR PRIVATE BANK GUARANTEES OF PAYMENT INSTEAD OF GOT GUARANTEES.

CAKIR DISMISSED OUT OF HAND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NEW REQUIREMENT HAD ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TRIAL OF THE ISTANBUL AIRPORT TERRORISTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: A LIBYAN ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN THE TERRORISTS' TRIAL BY INSISTING ON A NEW METHOD OF PAYMENT WOULD BE AT VARIANCE WITH ITS RECENT SUPPORT OF TURKEY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE UN AND NAM FORA. WE ARE INCLINED TO DOUBT SUCH A CONNECTION EXISTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) ANKARA 6981, 9/10.) KISSINGER

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